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1972/11/10

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Authority EO 12958
By NARA, Date 1/1/95

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T O P S E C R E T 102040Z NOV 72 VIA BUNKER CHANNELS

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
TO : GENERAL HAIG

CITE: WHS 2328

TOHAIG 23

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS

P 100235Z NOV 72 3 1 3 7 Q

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH RECVD: 10 NOV 72

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 12:17 AM

BT

T O P S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 7744

NODIS

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM LON NOL TO PRESIDENT NIXON ON
MILITARY ASSISTANCE

DEPT PLEASE PASS CINCPAC, COMUSMACV

1. FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSLATION OF A LETTER FROM PRES. LON NOL TO PRES. NIXON, DELIVERED TO THE EMBASSY EVENING OF NOVEMBER 9.

2. BEGIN TEXT: AT THIS TIME WHEN THE CEASE-FIRE IS ON THE POINT OF BEING REALIZED AND WHEN THE COUNTRIES

TO HAIG
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CONCERNED ARE ACTIVLEY ENGAGED IN TAKING STEPS TO PREPARE FOR IT, I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU THE MORE OR LESS DIRECT EFFECTS THE KHMER REPUBLIC WILL EXPERIENCE FROM THIS EVENTUAL CEASE-FIRE AND THE STEPS WHICH IT PLANS TO TAKE TO DEAL WITH THEM.

3. THE PRINCIPAL GOOD FOR OUR COUNTRY WILL CERTAINLY BE THE DEPARTURE OF THE VC/NVA INVADING TROOPS FROM OUR TERRITORY. NEVERTHELESS THERE WILL REMAIN A GOOD NUMBER OF K.R. WITH VC CADRES WHO WILL BE ABLE TO PURSUE COMBAT AGAINST US DESPITE THE EVENTUAL INTERVENTION OF A CEASE-FIRE.

4. THE ENTERING INTO EFFECT OF THE CEASE-FIRE WILL HAVE AMONG ITS MANY IMMEDIATE RESULTS THE REPATRIATION OF ALL THE AMERICAN FORCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THIS SITUATION WILL PARTIALLY DEPRIVE US OF THE NECESSARY SUPPORT WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THEM AND FROM SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES.

5. FACED WITH THIS FORESEEABLE CRITICAL SITUATION, IT IS NOW NECESSARY FOR US TO TAKE STEPS TO STRENGTHEN OUR CAPABILITY IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO COUNTER ENEMY ACTIONS WITH THE DESIRED EFFECTIVENESS. AS YOU WELL KNOW, OUR MILITARY CAPABILITY IS EXTREMELY LOW.

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6. WE KNOW THROUGH SEVERAL SOURCES THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN PREPARATION FOR THE CEASE-FIRE IS NOW NOT ONLY ADVANCING AND ACCELERATING THE DELIVERY OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE MATERIEL TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRE-ESTABLISHED PROGRAM, BUT IS ALSO PROVIDING THEM AS AN "ADD ON" "HORS PROGRAMME" AN IMPORTANT AMOUNT OF BASIC MILITARY MATERIEL SUCH AS HELICOPTERS, TRANSPORT, OBSERVATION AND COMBAT AIRCRAFT, ARMORED VEHICLES, ETC.

7. TO THIS SAME EFFECT, AND TO PERMIT OUR FORCES TO REACT IN TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE FASHION TO CURRENT AND FUTURE DEMANDS, I TAKE THE LIBERTY OF CALLING UPON YOUR GREAT FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION TO REQUEST THAT YOU CONSIDER THE OPPORTUNENESS OF REINFORCING, ALSO AS AN ADD-ON, THE CAPABILITY OF OUR ARMED FORCES (AIR, LAND AND SEA) WITH A PART OF THE MATERIEL WHICH YOUR FORCES NOW POSSESS IN SOUTH VIETNAM, IN PARTICULAR HELICOPTERS, TRANSPORT, OBSERVATION AND COMBAT AIRCRAFT, ARMORED VEHICLES, ARTILLERY PIECES AND SOME WARSHIPS FOR THE SECURITY OF OUR COAST AND FOR LIAISON WITH OUR MARITIME PROVINCE OF KOH KONG.

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8. I WOULD FURTHER LIKE TO ADVISE YOU THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING A PLAN OF OBLIGATORY MILIATRY SERVICE FOR IMMEDIATE EXECUTION. THIS MEASURE WILL AIM AT FILLING THE RANKS OF UNDERSTRENGTH UNITS AND OF CREATING NEW ONES TO PERMIT US TO REOCCUPY WITH LITTLE DELAY OUR TEMPORARILY ABANDONED TERRITORY. IN THIS REGARD WE WILL CERTAINLY LACK ARMS FOR THOSE CALLED TO SERVICE. WE WILL THUS NEED A NEW CONTINGENT OF SAME TWENTY THOUSAND ADDITIONAL WEAPONS.

9. MR. PRESIDENT, KNOWING WELL THAT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY MY COUNTRY'S SITUATION, I HAVE THE FIRM HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO MY PRESENT REQUEST.

10. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OCCASION TO AGAIN EXPRESS OUR PROFOUND GRATITUDE FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL AND VERY ACTIVE SUPPORT AS WELL AS THE INESTIMABLE AND PRECIOUS SAID THAT YOU HAVE SO GENEROUSLY FURNISHED FOR OUR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIETCONG COMMUNIST AGGRESSORS. COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.

END TEXT

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11. LETTER BEING POUCHED.

12. COMMENT: PENDING WASHINGTON STUDY OF THIS REQUEST, I WOULD RECOMMEND MY PROVIDING LON NOL AS AN INTERIM ORAL RESPONSE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ADD-ONS WE HAVE OBTAINED TO DATE (14 A-24 HELIO STALLIONS ARRIVING NOV 11 AND FIVE T-28D'S ARRIVING NOV. 10)AS WELL AS A RUN-DOWN OF PROGRAMMED EQUIPMENT FOR WHICH ACCELERATED DELIVERY HAS BEEN ARRANGED. AS REGARDS LATTER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT ON OUR REQUEST FOR ACCELERATED DELIVERY OF APC'S, ARTILLERY, HELICOPTERS AND OTHER ITEMS LISTED MEDTC 021200Z NOV 72, PHNOM PENH 7614, MEDTC 061115Z NOV 72. SWANK

BT

NOTE: NOT PASSED CINCPAC, COMUSMACV BY A/OC/T.